



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/731,445	12/10/2003	Hye Yong Park	K-0589	5122
34610	7590	10/18/2005	EXAMINER	
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP P.O. BOX 221200 CHANTILLY, VA 20153			NELSON, JAMES T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3637	

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/731,445	Applicant(s) PARK ET AL.	
	Examiner James T. Nelson	Art Unit 3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

4 X

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “cabinet for a home appliance” of claims 1 and 7, the “cabinet of a home appliance having a sectioned lid comprised of a first section and a second section having one end hinge-coupled to the first section” of claim 12, “other end of the second section is hinge-coupled to the home appliance” of claim 13, and the “first section comprises a grip for manually operating the sectioned lid” of claim 14 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.
2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “54” has been used to designate both the “boss” and the “coupling groove” in the specification. Fig. 4 shows the coupling groove as “54a”. Each reference character should refer to only one feature and each feature should have a unique reference character. Correction is required. No new matter should be entered.
3. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an

Art Unit: 3637

application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, and 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ford (U.S. Patent 4,638,909).

Regarding claim 1: In Fig. 6, Ford shows a cabinet comprising an outer panel (T) having at least one reinforcement rib (16), an inner panel (N) having at least one boss (30) in opposition to the at least one reinforcement rib (16) wherein the at least one boss (30) has a flat surface (D).

Regarding claim 2: In Fig. 6, Ford shows a cabinet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the panels (N, T) are joined by a welding process. This claim is a product by process claim. The product itself does not depend on the process of making it. The product-by-process limitation "joined by a welding process" would not impart distinctive structural characteristics to the claimed device.

Therefor, Ford's cabinet / panels would be the same as the applicant's cabinet / panels.

Regarding claim 4: In Fig. 6, Ford shows a cabinet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one reinforcement rib (16) has a flat distal end surface (D) parallel to the flat surface (F) of the at least one boss (30).

Art Unit: 3637

Regarding claim 5: In Fig. 6, Ford shows a cabinet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one boss (30) has at least one coupling groove formed (G) in the flat surface (F) in correspondence to the at least one reinforcement rib (16).

Regarding claim 6: In Fig. 6, Ford shows a cabinet as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least one reinforcement rib (16) is inserted into the at least one coupling groove (G).

Regarding claim 7: In Fig. 6, Ford shows a cabinet for a home appliance comprising an outer panel (T) having a plurality of reinforcement ribs (16), integrally formed on an inner surface (IT) of said outer panel (T), to protrude from the inner surface to a predetermined height; and an inner panel (N) having at least one boss (30), formed on an inner surface (IN) of said inner panel (N) in opposition to the plurality of reinforcement ribs (16), wherein the at least one boss has a flat surface (F) to mate with the reinforcement ribs (16).

Regarding claim 8: In Fig. 6, Ford shows a cabinet as claimed in claim 7, wherein each of said plurality of reinforcement ribs (16) has a flat distal end (D).

Regarding claim 9: In Fig. 6, Ford shows a cabinet as claimed in claim 8, wherein the flat distal ends (D) of said plurality of reinforcement ribs (16) lie in one plane.

Regarding claim 10: The cabinet as claimed in claim 7, wherein the at least one boss (30) has a plurality of coupling grooves (G) formed in the flat surface (F) in correspondence to the plurality of reinforcement ribs (16).

Regarding claim 11: In Fig. 6, Ford shows a cabinet as claimed in claim 10, wherein the reinforcement ribs (16) are respectively inserted into the coupling grooves (G).

The phrases “for a home appliance”, “for joining said panels together”, and “for establishing a right angle with respect to the at least one reinforcement rib” constitute intended use or functional language and are given no patentable weight.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

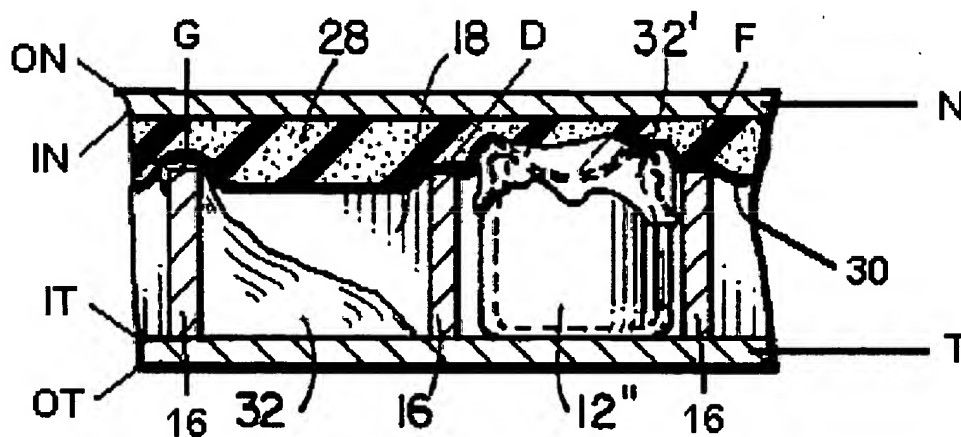
7. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ford (U.S. Patent 4,638,909). In Fig. 6, Ford shows a cabinet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one reinforcement rib (16) is welded to the at least one boss (30). This claim is a product by process claim. The product itself does not depend on the process of making it. The product-by-process limitation "is welded to" would not impart distinctive structural characteristics to the claimed device. Welding is a common process of joining or attaching elements together. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Ford's cabinet by welding the rib and boss together to quickly and inexpensively produce the cabinet.

8. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto (U.S. Design Patent 313,679), in view of Ford (U.S. Patent 4,638,909). In Figs. 1 and 8, Sakamoto shows a cabinet of a home appliance (C) having a sectioned lid (L) comprising a first section (F) and a second section (S) having one end hinge-coupled (FH) to the first section (F), wherein the other end of the second section (S) is hinge-coupled (SH) to the cabinet of the home appliance (C) and wherein the first section (S) comprises a grip (G). Sakamoto lacks an outer panel having at least one reinforcement rib, internally formed on an inner surface of said outer panel, to protrude from the inner surface to a predetermined height; and an inner panel having at least one boss, formed on an inner surface of said inner panel in opposition to the at least one

Art Unit: 3637

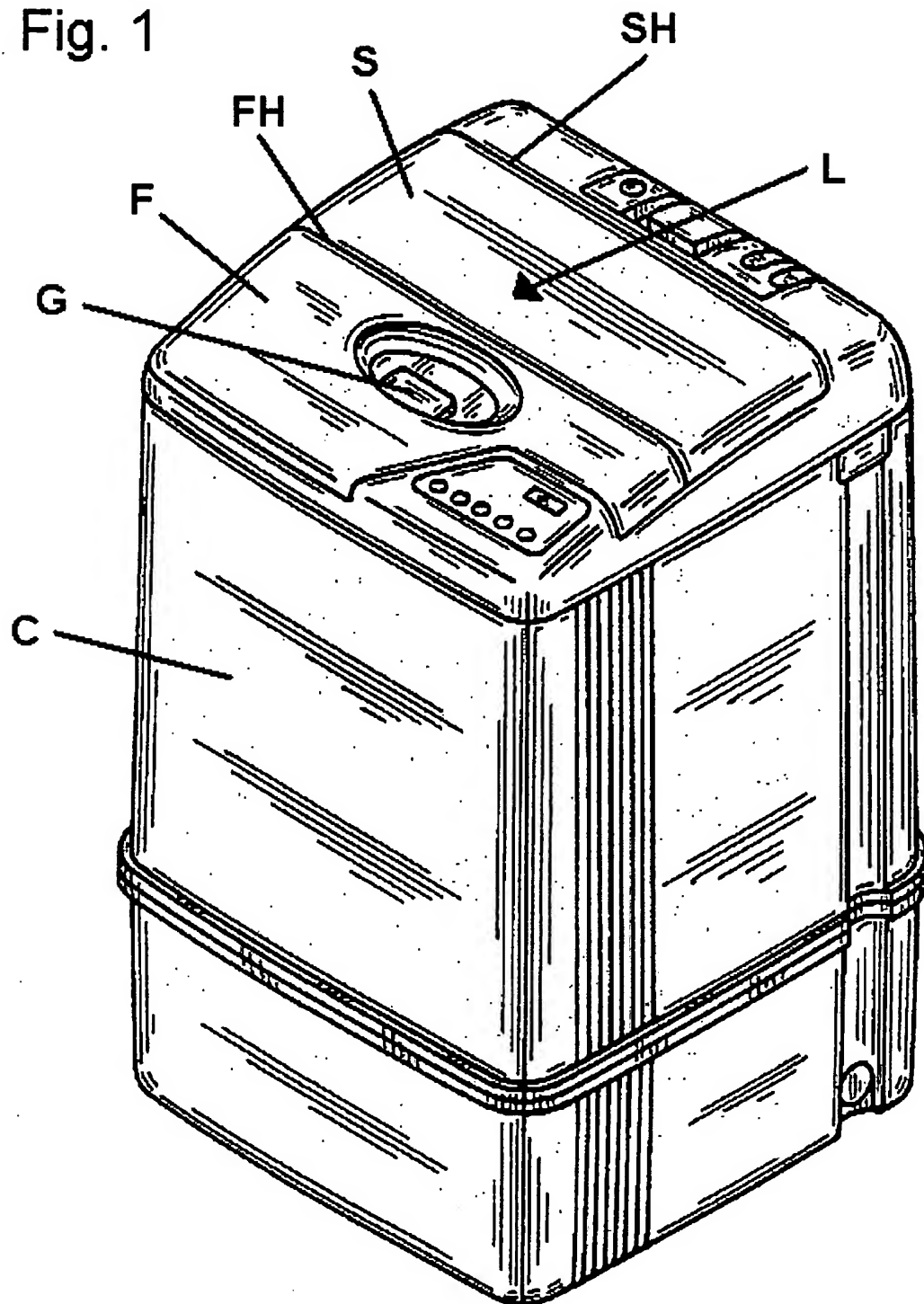
reinforcement rib, for joining said panels together, wherein the at least one boss has a flat surface for establishing a right angle with respect to the at least one reinforcement rib. In Fig. 6, Ford teaches an outer panel (T) having at least one reinforcement rib (16) on the inner surface (IT) of the outer panel (T), an inner panel (N) having at least one boss (30), formed on the inner surface (IN) of the inner panel (N) in opposition to the at least one reinforcement rib (16), wherein the at least one boss (30) has a flat surface (F) for mating to the at least one reinforcement rib (16). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify the cabinet of Sakamoto with the panel structure of Ford in order to make a more durable cabinet.

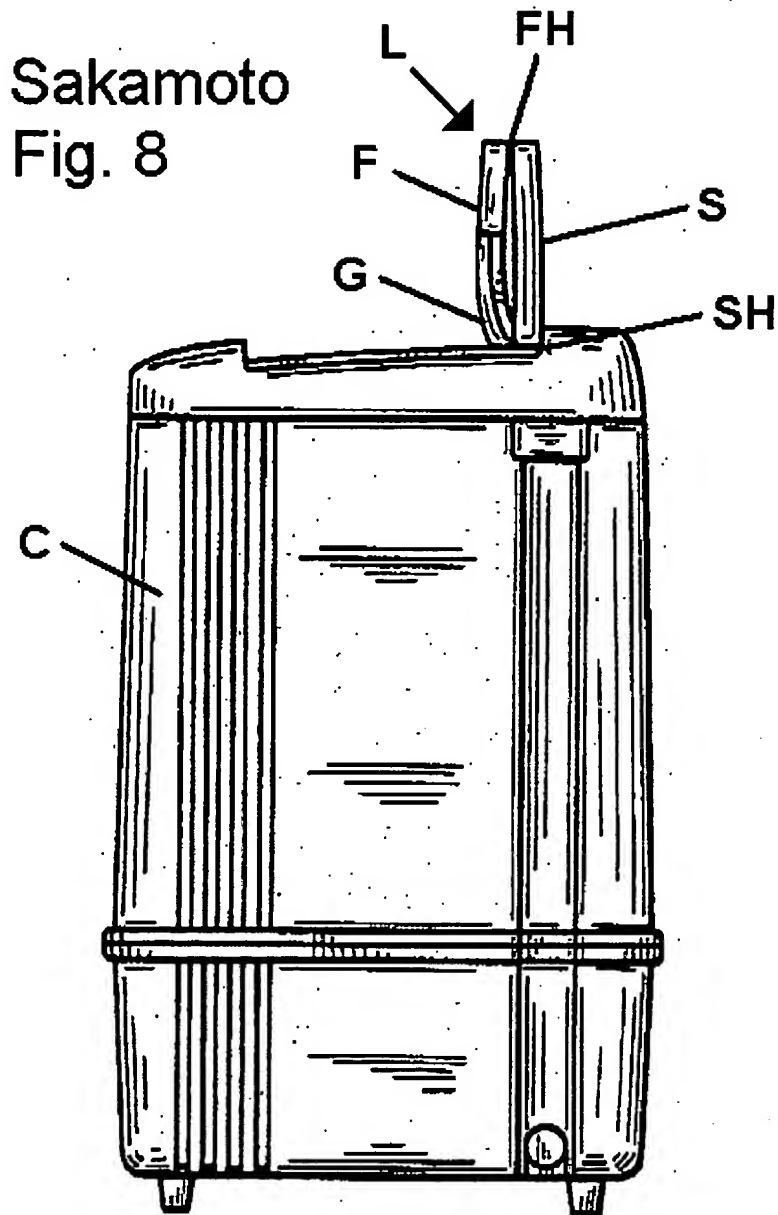
The phrases “for manually operating the sectioned lid”, “for joining said panels together”, and “for establishing a right angle” constitute intended use or functional language and are given no patentable weight.



Ford, Fig. 6

Sakamoto
Fig. 1





Conclusion


9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bourn, Casten, Motohashi, Bauer, Sussman, Bouix, Mutoh, Gueret, Kim, Cho, and Son all show aspects of the disclosed invention.

Art Unit: 3637

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James T. Nelson whose telephone number is (571) 272-1491. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 8:00am - 4:30pm.

11. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

12. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JTN 
10/14/2005

LANNA MAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

